

watershed focus

New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection • Division of Watershed Management

what's in focus

Spring 2005

1

DEP Releases Interim
Highlands Rules
Rules are effective immediately

4

Volunteer Monitoring Training
Coming Soon
Stream School, Rapid Bioassessment and
Volunteer Monitoring Summit

5

Watershed Watch
Network Commended
U.S. EPA recognizes pioneer effort

6

NPS Grants Awarded
\$3.6 million for 11 projects

8

Photo Contest Winners
Earth Day poster available

10

Watershed Ambassadors
and Youth Service Day
Mobilizing for community service

12

Pequannock River Awards
Staff recognized for TMDL work

13

Water Supply Plan
Progress
Updates the status of New Jersey's Water
Supply Initiatives

14

First Priority Stream
Segment Completed
Pequannock River assessed

15

Barnegat Bay Showcase
Festival on June 25th

15

Watershed Educators Conference
Workshops on June 28 and 29

16

Paddling for the Passaic
Celebrating National Watershed
Awareness Month

DEP Releases Interim Highlands Rules

The Department of Environmental Protection adopted interim rules on May 9, to implement the Highlands Water Protection and Planning Act. Effective immediately, the rules protect important Highlands resources by incorporating the standards of various environmental protection statutes and establish a consolidated Highlands permitting review and approval process for certain activities in the Highlands Preservation area. After a 45-day consultation period with the Highlands Council, the State Planning Commission, and the Departments of Community Affairs, Transportation, and Agriculture, DEP will propose for public comment amendments to these specially adopted rules. The interim rules will remain in effect until DEP finalizes the rules proposed for public comment. Under the Highlands Water Protection and Planning Act, *these final rules must be in effect by May 7, 2006.*

(HIGHLANDS RULES continued on page 3)



DEP Commissioner Bradley M. Campbell discusses preservation of the 75-acre Camp Todd property, a significant water resource in the New Jersey Highlands and one of the largest remaining open spaces in Bergen County. A former Boy Scout camp, the heavily forested property will be protected from development through a partnership among DEP, Bergen County and Fyke Nature Association.

watershed *focus*


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what's a **watershed?**

A watershed is the area of land that drains into a body of water such as a river, lake, stream or bay. It is separated from other systems by high points in the area such as hills or slopes. It includes not only the waterway itself but also the entire land area that drains to it. For example, the watershed of a lake would include not only the streams entering the lake but also the land area that drains into those streams and eventually the lake. Drainage basins generally refer to large watersheds that encompass the watersheds of many smaller rivers and streams.

From the Director's Desk

This issue of the Watershed Focus Newsletter highlights some of the achievements of the DEP Division of Watershed Management and the accomplishments of some of our partners.

The Division was reorganized last November along functional lines in an effort to empower our individual bureaus with the ability to make decisions in their respective arenas of responsibility. The Division's achievements that are chronicled in this issue are the result of this streamlined decision-making process and the hard work of the staff of the Division.

DEP Commissioner Campbell's vision of watershed management through implementation of results based on-the-ground projects is beginning to take shape. For example, a significant portion of this year's 319(h) money is targeted at restoring water quality in Lake Hopatcong. This is but one part of a comprehensive restoration program that also includes the Borough of Hopatcong's progress toward eliminating failing septic systems through sewerage, and the harvesting of aquatic vegetation in the Lake itself. Through this targeted approach, the Division hopes to realize the Commissioner's goal of being able to measure real water quality improvement.

Those articles that detail the work of our partners, such as the Pequannock River Coalition, serve to remind us of the important contributions of countless volunteers without whom any success at restoring water quality would be diminished if even possible. I hope to continue to highlight their efforts and successes along with those of the Department in future issues.

In closing, I want to thank those volunteers and my staff for your collective efforts toward protecting and restoring New Jersey's environment for the benefit of her citizens present and future.

Lawrence J. Baier, Director

Highlands Rules

(continued from page 1)

“The tough environmental rules are critical for the protection of New Jersey’s Highlands region,” said DEP Commissioner Bradley M. Campbell. “These rules also begin a close partnership with the Highlands Council to ensure that the final regulations work in concert with the regional master plan.”

The Highlands Act prescribes regulatory standards for the Preservation Area, including the protection of open waters and buffers, rare, threatened and endangered species habitat, exemptions, impervious coverage limits and the prohibition of new public water systems.

The rules establish standards regarding the following:

Permit Review: The regulations consolidate the review processes required for projects in the Highlands that require multiple permits. DEP will provide the Highlands Council copies of all applications, notify the public of applications and seek public comments.

Septic Systems: The rules protect existing water quality by establishing septic density requirements based on differences in groundwater quality in heavily forested and disturbed areas.

Historic and Archaeological Resources: The rules establish procedures for the identification and protection of historic and archaeological resources.

Unique and Irreplaceable Resources: The rules will help protect parks, reserves, vernal habitats and New Jersey Natural Heritage Program-identified ecological communities by regulating activities that impact the communities.

The New Jersey Highlands is a 1,250-square mile area in the northwest part of the state, stretching from Phillipsburg in the southwest to Ringwood in the northeast. It lies within portions of seven counties and 87 municipalities. Sixty-four percent of New Jersey residents, about 5.4 million people, receive their water from the Highlands. In addition, the forests and wetlands of the Highlands are important habitat for many species of reptiles, amphibians, mammals and resident and migrating birds.

New Application for Highlands Exemption Requests

Prospective applicants for Highlands exemptions should check the DEP’s website at www.nj.gov/dep/highlands for the new application that reflects the new Highlands Water Protection and Planning Act rules. Under the new rules, exemption applications will require additional information and includes a new fee schedule. Applications submitted on old forms or with the incorrect fee after May 9, 2005 will be returned, and applicants will then need to complete the new form. For more information, call the Division of Watershed Management’s Bureau of Watershed Regulation at (609) 984-6888.

Stream School in September

In cooperation with the Watershed Watch Network, the Stroud Water Resource Center's internationally acclaimed staff will lead Stream School Training on Sept. 14th and 15th. The two-day training will focus on macroinvertebrate identification.

Volunteer monitoring program organizations and members are encouraged to take this course, which will enable participants to sharpen their identification skills or take their skills. For more information, please contact Danielle Donkersloot at (609) 292-2113.

Learn EPA's Rapid Bioassessment Methodology in October

The Watershed Watch Network, in conjunction with the U.S. EPA's Region 2, is offering training in EPA's Rapid Bioassessment Methodology. The two-day training will feature muddy bottom methodology on Tuesday, Oct. 11th and rocky bottom methodology on Wednesday, Oct. 12th. For more information, please contact Danielle Donkersloot at (609) 292-2113.

Third Volunteer Monitoring Summit Focus on Data Uses

New Jersey native Geoff Dates will discuss how communities can effectively use data when he delivers the keynote address at the third Volunteer Monitoring Summit, slated for Nov. 4 and 5, at the Clarion in Edison. Dates is the Monitoring and Assessment Coordinator for the River Network. He also coordinated this year's River Rally in Colorado.

Founded in 1998, the River Network is a national organization that seeks to help people understand, protect and restore rivers and their watersheds.

The third Volunteer Monitoring Summit is being held in cooperation with the Watershed Watch Network. For more information, please contact Danielle Donkersloot at (609) 292-2113.

EPA Commends Watershed Watch Network For Environmental Achievement

On the 35th anniversary of Earth Day, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency honored New Jersey's Watershed Watch Network for its work in improving the volunteer monitoring programs across the state. The Network was among 10 individuals and organizations recognized for their outstanding efforts to protect New Jersey's environment.

EPA Deputy Regional Administrator George Pavlou presented Environmental Quality Awards during a ceremony at the agency's offices in Manhattan. Danielle Donkersloot, the DEP's Volunteer Monitoring Coordinator, accepted the award on behalf of the Network. "These winners are environmental trail blazers who make our world a better place," Pavlou said. "By being leaders and making local changes, the award recipients demonstrate that we can all have a positive impact on the health of our nation's air, land and water."

"We are extremely proud of the Watershed Watch Network's efforts to improve the quality of the data they collect. Danielle Donkersloot has been a champion of the cause and has promoted better coordination between the DEP's data users and the volunteer data collectors," said Lawrence J. Baier,

Director of the DEP's Division of Watershed Management, which coordinates the Network.

The nationally recognized Watershed Watch Network is an umbrella program for members of New Jersey's volunteer monitoring community, giving them a united voice and greater visibility. The network's main objective is to provide high-quality data that can be used to help drive watershed management decisions. It also provides opportunities for participation in a wide variety of environmental activities, such as classroom and community education, assisting local managers with planning and preservation decisions, and providing data that state regulators can use.

Members of the Watershed Watch Network are: Delaware Riverkeeper Network, Delaware River Basin Commission, Federation of Gloucester County Watershed Associations, Great Swamp Watershed Association, Pequannock River Coalition, Pohatcong Creek Watershed Association, Pompeston Creek Watershed Association, Salem County Watershed Task Force, Richard Stockton College of New Jersey, South Branch Watershed Association, Stony Brook Millstone Watershed Association, Upper Raritan Watershed Association, U.S. EPA Region 2 Volunteer Monitoring Program, U.S. Department of Agriculture's Natural Resource Conservation Service and Walkill River Watershed Management Group.

The EPA presents its Environmental Quality Award to members of nonprofit, environmental or community groups; news media; business organizations, educators and private citizens who have made significant contributions to environmental improvement in the agency's Region 2, which covers New York, New Jersey, Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands and seven federally recognized Indian nations.



Danielle Donkersloot and Kerry Kirk Pflugh of DEP's Division of Watershed Management accept EPA's Environmental Quality Award on behalf of the Watershed Watch Network.

DEP AWARDS MORE THAN \$3.6 MILLION FOR PROJECTS TO REDUCE NONPOINT SOURCE POLLUTION

DEP Commissioner Bradley M. Campbell announced more than \$3.6 million in grants to fund 11 projects designed to reduce nonpoint source pollution and restore water quality throughout New Jersey.

“This progressive funding program will reduce stormwater runoff, which impairs the quality of New Jersey’s waters,” said Acting Governor Richard J. Codey. “These grants are a shared cooperative effort among all levels of government to further protect New Jersey’s vital water resources.”

“Recent flooding costs in New Jersey are estimated to be about \$30 million,” said Commissioner Campbell. “By maintaining and restoring natural buffers and managing runoff from developed sites we can protect stream corridors and reduce the potential for flooding of the state’s rivers. These grants are one more example of the partnership we’ve developed with communities from Lake Hopatcong to the Salem River to protect New Jersey’s invaluable water resources.”

The Clean Water Act of 1987 established the section 319(h) Nonpoint Source Management Program that authorizes the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to fund states to reduce nonpoint source pollution. This year, the EPA provided New Jersey with more than \$3.6 million for this program. The DEP’s Division of Watershed Management’s Nonpoint Source Program is responsible for managing New Jersey’s nonpoint source pollution control activities, among which is the administration of the 319(h) Program.

The DEP received applications for 35 projects totaling more than \$6 million, almost twice the available funding. Projects were selected based on the ability to eliminate nonpoint source pollutants effectively.

For more information, contact Helen Rancan, Statewide Nonpoint Source Coordinator or Jessica Milose, 319(h) Program Coordinator, at (609) 633-3812.

The full list of the 11 DEP-funded NPS Pollution Control Projects is as follows:

Grantee	Project Title	County	Funding
Cumberland/Salem County Soil Conservation District	Watershed Restoration Plan for the Upper Salem River Watershed	Salem	\$313,400
Lake Hopatcong Commission	Implementation of NPS Management to Reduce Phosphorus and Sediment Loads Entering Lake Hopatcong	Sussex & Morris	\$844,500
Mount Olive Township	Budd Lake Watershed Restoration, Protection and Regional Stormwater Management Plan	Morris	\$393,994
New Jersey Water	Watershed Restoration and Protection Plan for the Lockatong and Wickecheoke Creek Watersheds	Hunterdon	\$237,290
Rockaway River Watershed Cabinet	Hurd Park Goose Management and Shoreline Restoration Project	Morris	\$201,000
The State University of Rutgers	Watershed Restoration Plan for the Upper Cumberland Cohansey River Watershed	Salem	\$310,640
Vernon Township Department of Health and Human Services	Black Creek Watershed Restoration, Protection and Regional Stormwater Management Plan	Sussex	\$385,674
Wallkill River Watershed Management Group	Watershed Restoration Plan for the Papakating Creek and the Surrounding Watershed	Sussex	\$168,850
Wallkill River Watershed Management Group	Watershed Restoration Plan for Clove Acres Lake and the Surrounding Lakeshed	Sussex	\$138,050
West Amwell Environmental Commission	Watershed Protection for the Alexaiken Creek Watershed	Hunterdon	\$239,300
William Paterson University	Preakness Brook Restoration, Protection and Regional Stormwater Management Plan	Passaic	\$408,586

Winners Selected

Fo

As part of the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection's Earth Day 2005 celebration, three high school students were chosen as winners of the 2005 New Jersey Water Photography Contest.

The first place winning photographer, Marina Michihiro of Waldwick High School, had her photograph featured on the DEP's 2005 Earth Day Poster. The poster is being distributed statewide. She also will receive a \$200 U.S. Savings Bond and a complimentary Passport to New Jersey's State Parks.

The second place winner, Mohammed Michael Hansen of Lacey Township High School, and third place winner, Caitlin Stiefel of Voorhees High School, will also receive U.S. Savings Bonds.

"We were thrilled at the level of interest in this photography contest and the quality of the entries," said Eileen P. Thornton, contest coordinator.

Students, in grades 9 through 12, were asked to photograph a scene that reflects the following quote by American essayist and poet, Henry David Thoreau: "A lake is the landscape's most beautiful and expressive feature. It is the earth's eye; looking into which the beholder measures the depth of his own nature." Students were also required to submit an essay describing their photographs. Evaluation of the entries was based on each student's interpretation of the quote, creativity, overall composition and photographic quality.

For more information, contact Eileen P. Thornton at (609) 633-0634 or eileen.thornton@dep.state.nj.us.



First Place Winner · "Reflection" by Marina Michihiro

A LAKE IS THE LANDSCAPE'S MOST BEAUTIFUL AND EXP
LOOKING INTO WHICH THE BEHOLDER MEASURES
HENRY DAVID THOR

r DEP's Water Photography Contest

Second Place Winner · "Vortex of Pine" by Mohammed Michael Hansen



Third Place Winner · "Natural Flow" by Caitlin Stiefel



RESSIVE FEATURE. IT IS THE EARTH'S EYE;
S THE DEPTH OF HIS OWN NATURE.
EAU

The AmeriCorps NJ Watershed Ambassadors Program celebrated Youth Service Day on April 17th at the Atlantic County Women's Center. The Watershed Ambassadors along with volunteers from the Ocean County Boy Scout Troop #32, the AmeriCorps Golden Gate program, the AmeriCorps Juvenile Justice Corps program, and the Atlantic County Women's Center planted a garden, marked storm drains, participated in a litter clean up, and learned about watersheds. The garden is now full of tulips, pansies, lilies and bayberries, donated by local florists.

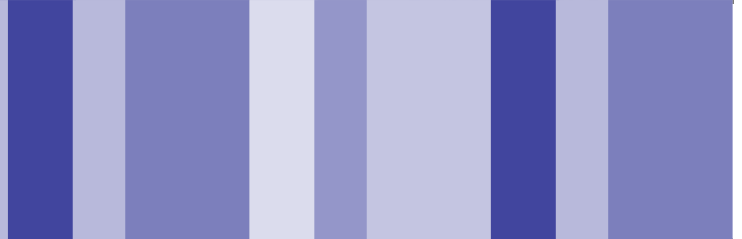


WATERSHED AMBASSADORS

Participants painted storm drains with the message “No Dumping Drains to River”, to remind residents that storm drains lead to a local stream, not to a water treatment facility. The litter clean up included parking lots, surrounding streets and a nearby park.

Launched in 1988 by Youth Service America and Campus Outreach Opportunity League, Youth Service Day encourages young people to identify and serve the needs of their community. It also supports youth through their lifelong path of service and civic engagement and educates the public, media and policymakers about the contributions youths make in their communities year round.

Sponsored by the DEP, the AmeriCorps New Jersey Watershed Ambassadors Program is now in its fifth year. It has 20 members based in watershed management areas statewide. The members offer community education on watershed issues, conduct stream monitoring and train community members to participate in their own watersheds through volunteer monitoring training and community stewardship projects. For more information, contact Program Manager Michelle Ruggiero at (609) 292-2113.





CELEBRATE YOUTH SERVICE DAY

by Kara Van Blarcum, NJ Watershed Ambassador



the pequannock river hot, hot, hot!

To commemorate the 10th anniversary of the Pequannock River Coalition, DEP staff members were honored for their work in protecting and restoring the Pequannock River Watershed. During a recent ceremony, Professional Service Awards were presented to Marzooq Al-Ebus, Kimberly Cenno, Pat Rector and Bob Papson, from the department's division's of Watershed Management and Fish & Wildlife.

"Honoring the dedication and commitment of those who, in their professional capacity, have provided extraordinary protection to the natural resources of the Pequannock River Watershed," said Ross Kushner, as he presented plaques to the staff.

Kushner also expressed a special thanks to various DEP staff including Barbara Hirst, Sandra Cohen, Helen Rancan, Donna Milligan and Todd Kratzer. Over the years, they have contributed their time and expertise to examining elevated water temperature

problems and other key issues in the Pequannock River Watershed. Water temperature is a major concern because the Pequannock River is prime habitat for trout, which require cold water for survival.

About the Pequannock River Watershed

The Pequannock River Watershed lies within Watershed Management Area 3 (WMA 3) and contains approximately 153 total river miles, of which nearly 35 river miles are impaired as indicated by elevated temperature levels. Located in the heart of the Highlands, the watershed contains the longest stretch of wild trout water remaining in the state, and much of the Pequannock River Watershed has been designated Category One in recognition of its support of the cold-water fishery.

In addition, the City of Newark owns 86 percent of the tributary area of the watershed, which encompasses five active reservoirs with a combined capacity of more than 14 billion gallons.

This system provides potable water to more than 500,000 New Jersey residents.

A History of the Pequannock TMDL

The WMA 3 Public Advisory Committee and Technical Advisory Committee have been meeting regularly since 2001 and were instrumental in working with the DEP to produce Temperature Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs) for the Pequannock River Watershed. TMDLs are calculations of the maximum amount of a pollutant that a waterbody can receive and still meet water-quality standards, and an allocation of that amount to the pollutant's sources.

Volunteers gathered much of the data used in the development of the temperature TMDLs over the past five years. The volunteers were part of the Pequannock River Coalition, an environmental group dedicated to the preservation of the Pequannock River Watershed.



DEP staff Marzooq Al-Ebus, Bob Papson, Pat Rector and Kimberly Cenno receive Professional Service Awards from the Pequannock River Coalition at their recent 10 year commemoration ceremony.

2005 Water Supply Plan Progress Report Released

Updates the Status of the State's Water Supply Initiatives

by Meghan Kiley Gosselink, Division of Watershed Management

In September 2004, DEP submitted 13 temperature TMDLs for the Pequannock River Watershed to EPA for approval. The TMDL calculations were based on a temperature-discharge relationship using regression and Stream Segment Temperature (SSTEMP) models. The SSTEMP model determined that low flows, primarily resulting from reservoir operation, and air temperature were the most important variables affecting in-stream water temperature. Given the two competing uses for the water in the system, implementation of the TMDL will attempt to find a balance that supports both uses.

TMDL Implementation

In the 2004 renewal of the City of Newark's water allocation permit, the DEP took steps in this direction. The renewed permit included passing flow requirements and a temperature action threshold of 65° F. It also established a requirement to assess operational options to attain temperature criteria and to determine the effect of operational alternatives on safe yield of the water supply system.

The TMDL implementation plan explains that the remaining identified sources of observed temperature impairment will be addressed through the application of other measures such as beaver management and reforestation of deficient riparian buffer areas.

The DEP's Division of Watershed Management recently released for comment and review the 2005 Progress Report for the New Jersey Statewide Water Supply Plan, the first update of the status of the DEP's water supply management initiatives since the 1996. The Progress Report provides a basis for the scope of work of the 2006 NJSWSP and correlates with the recommendations found in Chapter 10 of the 1996 Plan, as well as presenting new initiatives and programs that the DEP has undertaken which relate to water supply issues.

Chapter 10 in the state's 1996 Water Supply Plan, entitled "The Water Supply Action Program for New Jersey," identified water supply projects, studies, policies and regulations that needed to be developed for the state and each of its regional water planning areas. The recommendations contained in the 1996 Action Program are the Plan's major findings and the initiatives to be carried out in subsequent years, as supported by the New Jersey Water Supply Bond Fund.

The New Jersey Statewide Water Supply Plan provides a framework to guide the management, conservation and development of the State's water resources. It

balances the demand for potable, industrial, recreational and ecological uses to ensure that a safe and adequate water supply will be available into the foreseeable future, including during drought. The Water Supply Plan and its periodic updates are mandated by the 1981 Water Supply Management Act. The DEP is responsible for producing and implementing the plan. The first plan was adopted in 1982 and the first plan update was released in 1996.

The 2005 Progress Report has been a collaborative effort by the DEP's Water Supply Workgroup, which consists of representatives from the DEP's New Jersey Geological Survey, the Bureau of Water Allocation, the Bureau of Safe Drinking Water, the Division of Water Supply, the Division of Watershed Management, and the Division of Science, Research and Technology. Special thanks for their efforts in producing the report go to Robert Kecskes, Meghan Gosselink, Robert Canace, Jeffrey Hoffman, Steven Domber and Joseph Mattle.

For more information, contact Joseph Mattle at (609) 984-0058.

THE PEQUANNOCK COALITION COMPLETES STATE'S First Priority Stream Segment Initiative

by Pat Rector, Division of Watershed Management

The Pequannock River Coalition's Priority Stream Segment submitted to the DEP's Division of Watershed Management in December 2004, is the first such initiative to be successfully completed in New Jersey.

The Priority Stream Segment initiative seeks to build on previous characterizations and assessments of the watershed to provide detailed, site-specific implementation plans to address impairments on priority streams.

As part of the Pequannock Priority Stream Segment, the river was divided into three segments: (1) Upper Pequannock Watershed, which is a less densely populated area with small headwater streams; (2) the Reservoir Section, which contains five large reservoirs for the City of Newark Water Supply; and (3) the Lower Pequannock River Watershed, which includes more urbanized areas.

Beavers are active in the Upper Pequannock watershed segment, and frequently increase the problem of elevated water temperatures. The beavers build dams, which increase water temperatures by creating a small impoundment, reducing flow and shade in the area. Beavers eventually move to another area, but the dam continues to impact the temperature of the downstream waters. Removing abandoned dams by hand is suggested in the Upper Watershed area.

Implementation for the Reservoir Section of the Pequannock River Watershed focuses on releases from the reservoir systems.

Many parts of the Lower Pequannock segment feature urban/suburban land uses, and there are associated impacts from stormwater runoff and adjacent land use. Since much of the property near the river is privately owned, the Priority Stream Segment implementation plan in the Lower Pequannock suggests education of private landowners. There is an overall loss of riparian canopy in this section of the watershed, which decreases the cooling effects of shade on the river.

The implementation plan includes a novel approach: piping cool water. Many stretches of the river and its tributaries have small dams that are creating small lakes and ponds. The Pequannock River Coalition has developed a plan to install a piping system that would allow cooler bottom waters to be piped over the small dams and into the streams. Coalition members also are working with municipal officials to help them explore the prospect of including temperature considerations in their stormwater management plans.

Under the new Priority Stream Segment initiative, the Pequannock River Coalition was awarded \$25,000 to perform this work in Watershed Management Area 3. The priority

stream segment for WMA 3 is the Pequannock River, from above Pacock Brook to the Pequannock River at Butler. It was endorsed by the WMA 3 Public Advisory Committee as a high priority waterbody. The project included providing an in-depth characterization of the current conditions within the identified stream segment, monitoring as necessary, and an evaluation and assessment of the finding to provide both short-term and long-term specific management measures to allow the stream to achieve and maintain full attainment of its designated uses.

The findings of the Priority Stream Segment will be incorporated into the Pequannock River Temperature TMDL Implementation Plan, slated for adoption later this year. The Pequannock River Coalition provided a very detailed plan for identification of the sources of temperature impairment to the priority stream segment, and included work and strategies required to control or eliminate the sources of those impairments for the entire River.

by Shannon Shinault, Barnegat Bay Estuary Program

The Barnegat Bay National Estuary Program and Ocean County College will serve as hosts for a festival on June 25th to honor a wonderful resource of significance - the Barnegat Bay.

The celebration, which will be held from 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. at Ocean County College's main campus in Toms River, is in its ninth year of helping residents learn more about the problems and solutions to "people-pollution." This year, the festival includes a stormwater education exhibit featuring information on the new municipal stormwater rules now in effect statewide.



Get up close and personal with the bay on a free scenic cross-bay boat trip, a Back Bay Ecotour by canoe or a bus tour of the Barnegat Bay Watershed. Pre-registration is required. Local environmental groups will be there to discuss environmentally responsible ways that residents can enjoy and protect the beautiful Barnegat Bay and its watershed. Also, artists and craftsmen will be selling custom fishing rods, jewelry, marine art, photography and much more.



Event sponsors include the Ocean County Board of Chosen Freeholders, Barnegat Bay Watershed and Estuary Foundation, Gangi Graphics and the Ocean County Utilities Authority.

For more information visit www.bbep.org or call (732) 255-0472.

Watersheds for Educators in June

"Making the Watershed Connection - An Interactive Conference for New Jersey Educators" will be held on Tuesday, June 28 and Wednesday, June 29 at the Rutgers EcoComplex in Burlington County. Conference sessions will explore New Jersey's dynamic watersheds and connect educators with regional resources, curriculum materials and more. Field trips on the second day will enable participants to discover the beauty and complexities of their watersheds and learn more ways to teach students about Earth's most precious resource - water.

Educators participating in the conference will receive professional development credits, guidebooks and curricula at a discount. The Audubon's New Jersey WATERS, Project WET's Wonders of Wetlands and Project Learning Tree's The Places We Live will be offered to all educators who attend each organization's workshop.

In addition, the Beyond Science and Teachers in Action tracks will feature workshops on watershed-education resources and tools, highlighting many areas of study. Watershed 101 will provide educators with a refresher course on New Jersey's watershed basics and resources available through the New Jersey Geological Survey. All workshops will be interactive.

Registration for this two-day conference costs \$35. For more information, call (609) 292-2113 or visit www.nj.gov/dep/watershedmgt. Registration is through Cook College Office of Continuing Professional Education at (609) 932-9271.



PADDLING FOR THE PASSAIC

In partnership with the Lower Passaic and Saddle River Alliance, the NJDEP Division of Watershed Management's Watershed Ambassador Program and Bureau of Watershed Planning celebrated National Watershed Awareness Month on May 14 by hosting teams of canoe and kayak racers on a 12-mile stretch of the Passaic River.

Over 60 canoeists and kayakers came out to compete in this first annual Passaic Paddle Relay. Racers launched from the new Essex County Environmental Center in Roseland where there was a Watershed Festival celebrating the Passaic River as a treasured resource for local communities. The finish line was at West Side Park in Paterson where volunteers helped spruce up the park and plant large shade trees.

This event was a success by the efforts of over 30 partners in the Lower Passaic and Saddle River Alliance. For more information, visit the Alliance website at www.wma4.org.

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